

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 AGRE-00 IGA-02 AID-05
MED-03 DODE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 HEW-06 L-03 H-02
/081 W

-----170116Z 061073 /13

R 161450Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1779

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA

REF: STATE 57902

1. CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA OR ANY NARCOTIC, EITHER UNDER CATEGORIES OF TRAFFICKING OR POSSESSION ARE GOVERNED BY LAW 182. POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE CARRIES MINIMUM IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS WITH NO MAXIMUM SENTENCE SET AND FINE OF FROM 5,000 TO 30,000 SYRIAN POUNDS, BOTH DEPENDING ON AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS SEIZED AND PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD. TRAFFICKING CAN RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OF FROM 3 YEARS TO LIFE WITH HARD LABOR AND FINE FROM 30,000 TO 100,000 SYRIAN POUNDS, BOTH DEPENDING ON AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS SEIZED AND PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD. LENGTH OF SENTENCE IS DETERMINED BY RECOMMENDATION OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND DISCRETION OF JUDGE(S) WHO ACT INDEPENDENTLY. RECENTLY, COURTS HAVE HANDED DOWN RELATIVELY HARSH SENTENCES.

2. A CATEGORY OF ACCUSED WHO FALL BETWEEN DEFINITIONS FOR POSSESSION AND TRAFFICKING ARE CARRIERS. EXAMPLE
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OF THIS IS AMCIT PETER FORELLA WHO WAS ACCUSED OF TRAFFICKING BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR BUT CONVICTED FOR POSSESSION OF 8 KILOS OF HASHISH.HIS SENTENCE WAS 18 MONTHS AND FINE OF 96,000 SYRIAN POUNDS.

3. FINES ARE ADMINISTRATIVELY DETERMINED BY CUSTOMS

SERVICE IN MOST CASES AND LESSER AMOUNTS CAN BE
NEGOTIATED BY ACCUSED OR HIS ATTORNEY. IF FINE IS
NOT PAID ONE YEAR IS ADDED TO SENTENCE FOR CRIMINAL
CHARGES.

4. OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE IS 3.90 SYRIAN
POUNDS TO THE U.S. DOLLAR.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARIJUANA, DRUG ABUSE, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CRIMINAL LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0071
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770355/aaaabwiw.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 57902
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3095999
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA
TAGS: SNAR, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/85f180b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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